

AMY AND THE AMAZING AMY IN *GONE GIRL* MOVIE:

A STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

A GRADUATING PAPER

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A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this graduating paper is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this graduating paper. Other writers' opinions or findings included in this graduating paper are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

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ABSTRACT

Movie is a amusement media which is interested to be analyzed. This research uses *Gone Girl* movie as the object. *Gone Girl* tells about a woman named Amy who is missing from home mysteriously. In this movie, Amy is described in two personalities that is Amy and the amazing Amy which opposite each other. This research aims to find the differences between each characters so the researcher can prove is the character of Amy and the amazing Amy as real wife and ideal wife. This research is qualitative research. Observation and documentation technique is used to collect the data. This research uses binary opposition by Claude Levi-Strauss as the main theory and film theory as a support to explain the event and expression that shown in the movie. The result is the binary between character Amy and the amazing Amy which found in *Gone Girl* movie show relation. The relation of them is about th reality and the ideal of wife in *Gone Girl* movie. The real Amy is ordinary, introvert, sociopath, mysterious and paranoid, contrary the amazing amy is extraordinary, extrovert, normal, transparent and trust. The real Amy shows her really self and the amazing Amy shows fake character who is played by Amy in front of public and Nick. So Amy is the reality of wife and the amazing Amy is the ideal wife.

Keywords: *binary opposition, two personalities, real, ideal, Gone Girl.*

AMY AND THE AMAZING AMY IN *GONE GIRL* MOVIE

: A STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

By: Muhammad Khoiruddin

ABSTRAK

Film adalah sebuah media hiburan yang sangat menarik untuk diteliti. Penelitian ini menjadikan film *Gone Girl* sebagai objek kajian. *Gone Girl* bercerita tentang seorang wanita bernama Amy yang menghilang dari rumah secara misterius. Dalam film ini Amy digambarkan memiliki dua kepribadian yang digambarkan dengan Amy dan the amazing Amy yang keduanya saling berlawanan. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah menemukan perbedaan sifat dari masing-masing karakter tersebut sehingga peneliti dapat membuktikan apakah karakter Amy dan the amazing Amy sebagai penggambaran istri yang nyata dan istri yang ideal. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif. Teknik observasi dan dokumentasi digunakan untuk memperoleh data. Penelitian ini menerapkan teori oposisi biner dari Claude Levi-Strauss sebagai teori utama dan teori film sebagai pendukung untuk menjelaskan kejadian dan ekspresi yang ditunjukkan dalam film. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah oposisi biner dari karakter Amy dan the amazing Amy yang ditemukan dalam film *Gone Girl* menunjukkan adanya hubungan. Hubungan dari kedua karakter adalah mengenai karakter Amy dan the amazing Amy sebagai istri kenyataan dan ideal di film *Gone Girl*. Karakter Amy yang sesungguhnya yaitu biasa, tertutup, sosiopat, misterius dan paranoid, sedangkan the amazing Amy yaitu luarbiasa, terbuka, normal, transparan dan percaya. Amy yang sesungguhnya menunjukkan diri dia yang sebenarnya dan the amazing Amy merupakan karakter palsu yang diperankan Amy didepan publik dan suaminya. Sehingga Amy adalah sosok asli seorang istri dan the amazing Amy adalah istri yang ideal.

Kata Kunci: *oposisi biner, dua kepribadian, nyata, ideal, Gone Girl.*

MOTTO

**ALLAH IS SUFFICIENT FOR US AND HE IS THE BEST
HELPER. AND UPON ALLAH DO WE RELY.**



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DEDICATION

I dedicate this graduating paper to:

My beloved parents Rukimin and Titik Sulastris



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Yogyakarta, 22 Mei 2017

The researcher



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

Movie is one of literary work that becomes popular now days. By watching a movie, people not only get amusement but they also can use movie as the way to understand human life. Movie is made with an interesting way to deliver the meaning of the story which can make people easy to understand. Many creators make movie based on what people like most and based on what the popular thing in society.

Movie is also one of literary work that serves people with many genres. One of them is thriller genre. The word thriller means a person or a thing that thrills, or an exciting, suspenseful paly or story, especially a mystery story (dictionary.com). Thriller is having numerous subgenres. It is characterized and defined by the moods they elicit, giving viewers heightened feelings of suspense, excitement, surprise, anticipation and anxiety.

Thriller may be defined by primary mood that they elicit: suspenseful excitement. In short, if it “thrill”, it is a thriller. As the introduction to a major anthology explains:

“..Thrillers provide such a rich literary feast. There are all kinds. The legal thriller, action-adventure thriller, medical thriller, police thriller, romantic thriller, religious thriller, high-tech thriller, military thriller. The list goes

on and on, with new variations constantly being invented. In fact, this openness to expansion is one of the genre's most enduring characteristics. But what gives the variety of thrillers a common ground is the intensity of emotions they create, particularly those of apprehension and exhilaration, of excitement and breathlessness, all designed to generate that all-important thrill. By definition, if a thriller doesn't thrill, it's not doing its job." – James Patterson, June 2006, "introduction", *Thriller*.

One of thriller movie is *Gone Girl*. *Gone Girl* is an American psychological thriller movie directed by David Fincher and written by Gillian Flynn, based on *Gone Girl* novel. This movie released on October 3rd, 2014 in United States. The movie tells a story of Nick and Amy, a couple living in a small town Missouri. They have a normal life until one day Amy disappears. During the investigation of police, Nick becomes the prime suspect that is responsible of Amy's missing. Amy intentionally left some clues to make puzzle and all suspects point to his husband Nick. Many mysteries about Amy revealed and unexpected events are done by Amy. It is more interesting when Amy kills his friend and in the end Amy is back home with some dramas.

The main character Amy is interesting to be analyzed. In this movie, Amy is described in two characters. They are Amy in real life and the amazing Amy who is the character of the book which is created by Amy's parent. Of course, Amy and the amazing Amy are described as having different characterizations. The amazing Amy has perfect character and loved by Americans. The real Amy is just an ordinary woman. It is interesting because Amy shows her real character which very different with what her parent describe about the amazing Amy in

their book. The researcher is interested to analyze the character of Amy because the researcher wants to examine how Amy and the amazing Amy as the reality and the ideal through conflicts or dialogues.

This research focuses on the analysis of the character of Amy who described in the movie. To understand what is character, according to Abraham in his book, *A Glossary of Literary Term* is “The chief character in a plot, or whom our interest centers is called Protagonist (or alternatively, the hero or heroine), and if the plot is such that he or she against an important opponent, that character is called Antagonist” (Abrams, 2009:265). Abrams also stated;

“The character is the name of a literary genre; it is a short, and usually witty, sketch in prose of a distinctive type of person. Characters are the persons represented a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as possessing particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it –the dialogue- and from what they do –the action. A character may remain essentially “stable”, or unchanged in outlook and disposition from beginning to end of a work.” (Abrams, 2009:42)

In this case, the author focuses on character of Amy in real life and the amazing Amy which is character of *Amazing Amy*'s book which is made by Amy's parent. They both have different characteristic and opposing each other. It can be called dualism. According to Robinson H, “dualism derives from the latin word duo which means two” (as cited in Ummi Shalikhah, 2015:3). In this movie, there are two characters of Amy. The first is the real Amy who described with all her real character which hides beneath the label of the amazing Amy. The second

is character of the amazing Amy. She is the character of Amazing Amy's book. Here, the amazing Amy is different with the real Amy. Simply put, the focuses of the research is to compare the dualism between the reality and the idea which appeared in Amy and the amazing Amy.

1.2. Research Question

Based on the background, the researcher has a question to be answered. How can the characters of Amy and the amazing Amy in *Gone Girl* movie be explained?

1.3. Objective of study

Based on the problem statement, this objective study is the explanation of the character of Amy and the amazing Amy in *Gone Girl* movie.

1.4. Significance of the study

This research is significant to the development of social science both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research is necessary to explain how the characters characterization based on the movie, main character will influence the plot of story based on their characterization and activity. Practically this research is important for expecting the reader to be interested in analyzing the movie.

1.5. Literature Reviews

After searching some researches from some researchers, the researcher finds some researches use the same theory. Those are the first research was conducted by Umami Solikhah of a student of Adab and Cultural Sciences Faculty, State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta 2015. It is under the title *Reading Binary Opposition In Frozen Movie*. She compared the main character of *Frozen* movie. They are Elsa and Anna. She stated the main characters Elsa and Anna was described having opposite personalities. She also used the theory of Binary Opposition by Levis Strauss as the main theory. The second research is from Romelah Isti Komah of a student of Adab and Cultural Sciences Faculty, State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta 2016. It is under the title *Contrasting Woman Characters in Mama movie*. She compared the contrast of woman characters Annabel and Edith in *Mama* movie. She also states that there are two woman characters who can be compared and contrasted. They show the central and marginal concept of mother. She also used the theory of Binary Opposition by Levi-Strauss as the main theory. The third research was conducted by Sri Rahayu of a student of Adab and Humanities Faculty, State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta 2011. It is under the title *A Binary Opposition In The Film Music Within*. She used Binary Opposition as the main theory. Rahayu compared the superior group and the inferior group. She stated in her conclusion that Richard and Art as inferior and the society in general as superior.

The researcher also finds a graduating paper with *Gone Girl* movie as the object of research. It is from Gilang Wening Pertiwi of a student of State University of Yogyakarta 2016. It is under the title *Amy's Personality Disorder in Flynn's Gone Girl: A Psychological Approach*. Gilang focused on antisocial personality of Amy. He stated Amy shows six out of seven characteristics of antisocial personality disorder which are failure to conform social norms.

In previous research, there are no researchers who research *Gone Girl* movie with binary opposition. The researcher analysis *Gone Girl* movie with binary opposition by Claud Levi-Strauss. This research aims to examine the main character Amy and the amazing Amy as the reality and the ideal of wife in the movie. This research focuses to find out the ideal wife of this movie.

1.6. Theoretical approach

1.6.1. Binary Opposition

In this research, the researcher uses a binary opposition from Claude Levi-Strauss as the main theory to analyze the research. The binary opposition theory is started from myth. According to Abrams, "In classical Greek, "mythos" signified any story or plot, whether true or invented" (2009: 206). The Raw and the Cooked by Claude Levi-Strauss, it discusses myths in the North America. In the book, Levi-Strauss tries to give explanation about myths in science. According to Levi-Strauss, he stated that:

"It follows that as the nebula gradually spreads, its nucleus condenses and becomes more organized. Loose threads join up with one another, gaps are closed, connections are established, and something resembling order is to

be seen emerging from chaos. Sequences arranged in transformation groups, as if around a germinal molecule, join up with the initial group and reproduce its structure and determinative tendencies. Thus is brought into being a multi-dimensional body, whose central parts disclose a structure, while uncertainty and confusion continue to prevail along its periphery” (1986: 3).

Levi-Strauss also stated that “It merely implies that each myth taken separately exists as the limited application of a pattern, which is gradually revealed by the relations of reciprocal intelligibility discerned between several myths” (1986: 13). So each myth represent other myth in other world. The binary opposition is two terms which are in opposite to each other. Storey also stated that “He (Levi-Strauss) also observes that myths are structured in terms of binary oppositions” (2009:115). Units of systems have meanings in the relation of its opposites, for example, a thing can be named as good because another thing is bad. Anything in the world has contradictions and has a positive value to things and a negative value to things, for instance, beautiful/ugly, light/darkness, right/left, presence/absence, and so on.

The term of Binary Opposition begin to appear in late of twentieth century. It is called Structuralism and then developed in Poststructuralism. As a new thought in anthropology, structuralism has a number of basic assumptions that are different from other branches of anthropology, one of them is that relations that exist in the structure can be further simplified be aqueezed or opposition pairs. (as cited in Ummi Solikhah, 2015:8). According to Abrams in his book, Glossary of Literary Terms;

“Binary Oppositions such as speech/wrting, nature/culture, truth/error,

male/female which are essential structural elements in logocentric language. Derrida shows that such oppositions constitute a tacit hierarchy, in which the first term functions as privileged and the second term as derivative from, or special case of, the secondary term; but instead of stopping at this reversal, he goes on to destabilize both hierarchies, leaving them in a condition of undecidability.”

The word binary opposition is from two words. Binary means consist of two parts and opposition means opposite. Jacques Derrida said in structuralism, a binary opposition is seen as a fundamental organizer of human philosophy, culture and language. (as cited in Sri Rahayu, 2011:11). According to Ferdinand De Saussure, binary opposition means by which the units of language have value or meaning: each unit defined against what it is not. (as cited in Sri Rahayu, 2011: 11)

1.6.2. Film Theory

This research applies the film theory as the secondary theory. This research applies *Mise-en-scene* and cinematography in the film theory to analyze the pictures and get the meaning of the pictures in the movie. *Mise-en-scene* is the basic component in film analysis. According to Villarejo, “Remember, in other words, that “reality” partakes of the *functions of mise-en-scene* more than the measurement of its elements against a presumed “real world” at the same time as films summon our experience of living in that real world by way of our reactions and responses” (2007: 29).

Other opinion from Ed Sikov, he states:

“*Mise-en-scene* is the first step in understanding how films produce and reflect meaning. It’s a term taken from the French, and it means that which

has been put into the scene or put onstage. Everything —literally everything— in the filmed image is described by the term *mise-en-scene*: it's the expressive totality of what you see in a single film image. *Mise-en-scene* consists of all of the elements placed in front of the camera to be photographed: settings, props, lighting, costumes, makeup, and figure behavior (meaning actors, their gestures, and their facial expressions).” – *Film Studies an Introduction*

The other theory of film theory is cinematography. The word cinematography comes from two Greek roots: *kinesis* (the root of cinema), meaning movement, and *grapho*, which means to write or record. (Photography is derived from *phos*, meaning light, and *grapho*.) Writing with movement and light— it's a great way to begin to think about the cinematographic content of motion pictures.

The components of cinematography are used by researcher are framing techniques and camera angles. According to Villarejo, framing techniques are divided into: the extreme long shot, the long shot, the medium long shot, the medium shot, the medium close-up, the close up and the extreme close up.

Camera angles are used to position the viewer so that they can understand the relationships between the characters. The types of camera angles: a bird's eye angle, a high angle, an eye level angle and a low angle.

1.7. Method of research

1.7.1. Type of research

Based on this research, the researcher uses qualitative method to do the research. This research is a qualitative which is done by doing a library research. It means that this research uses books to collect data. The method allows the

researcher to collect data from other writings, websites, articles and the other data resources which can help the researcher to analyze the problem.

1.7.2. Data sources

There are two data that the researcher uses for completing the analysis. The first is *Gone Girl* movie as the main data including the script. The second is the data that is relevant with the first data such as novel, books, articles, and internet that can help to complete the analysis. The researcher formulates data sources into 3 unit datas; sign, action and event. The unit data helps the researcher to analyze the main data.

1.7.3. Data collecting technique

The researcher uses method of observation and documentation in collecting data. In observation the researcher does some steps:

1. Reading *Gone Girl* movie repeatedly for understanding form and the content.
2. Collecting necessary data from the movie including the script of the movie.
3. Collecting data about main character of Amy and the amazing Amy start from her job, her character, her behavior, and her social environment.
4. Determining characters and characterizations of Amy and the amazing Amy

Then the second researcher uses documentation, means collecting data from another resource for helping to complete the observation. It can be from book or another source.

1.7.4. Data analysis technique

The method of analyzing data is descriptive analysis. It means all of the primary data are analyzed and interpreted descriptively by using binary opposition theory to get the conclusion. In order to complete the analysis, the researcher does some steps in analyzing data:

1. Analyzing the main character from the script and the movie act.
2. Describe the characterizations of main character in the movie.
3. Selecting data that are appropriate with the problem.
4. Find the connection among the data.

1.8. Paper Organization

This research is divided into four chapters. First chapter describes the general information about the research including the background of study, problem statement, objective of study, significance of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research including type of research, data source, data collecting technique and data analysis technique, and last is paper organization. Second chapter explains the intrinsic elements of *Gone Girl* movie. Third chapter is analysis of the data. Fourth chapter is the conclusion which tells about the result of this research.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1. Conclusion

In this chapter, the researcher shows the result of discussion in the third chapter. From the discussion, it can be concluded that in the study of *Gone Girl* that uses binary opposition from Claude Levi-Strauss as a theory, the researcher finds the opposite of Amy and the amazing Amy. The character of Amy, the real nature, is ordinary, introvert, sociopath, mysterious and paranoid. These characters are the real nature from Amy which hides beneath the amazing Amy's character. Contrary, the character of the amazing Amy is formed by the situation. The amazing Amy was bogged down by celebrity status and she always shows faking character in front of public and Nick. The amazing Amy's character is extraordinary, introvert, normal, transparent and trust. The character of amazing Amy appears because of the expectation of her parents. The situation forced her to hide her real character.

The contrasts of their characters show how Amy plays two different characters. The real Amy is described having bad personalities. The other side, the amazing Amy is described having good personalities. The real Amy shows her really self and the amazing Amy shows fake character who is played by Amy. The real Amy shows the reality of wife in the movie and the amazing Amy shows the ideal wife of the movie.

4.2. Suggestion

In this research, the researcher analyzes the *Gone Girl* movie by applying the binary opposition theory. Thus, there are many theories that can be used to analyze the movies. The researcher suggest to other researcher who interested in *Gone Girl* movie to apply other theory such as psychoanalysis theory, feminist theory, deconstruction theory and so on.



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